

# TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

## OF THE

# DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my annual Report for the year 1918:

**AREA AND POPULATION.**—The District, which includes the village of Holcombe, has a total area of 1,500 acres, and a population at the last Census of 4,100. The figures now supplied by the Registrar General are 3,747 for calculating the death rates, and 4,198 for the birth rate.

**RATEABLE VALUE.**—On agricultural land, £2,127; on buildings, £22,647; making a total of £24,774.

**BALANCE OF LOANS OUTSTANDING** £14,100, of which £6,385 10s. is for water supply, £3,384 15s. for sewerage, and £335 8s. 4d. for public conveniences.

**OUTDOOR RELIEF** IN 1918, amounted to £230 7s. 9d.; this is again rather less than 1s. 3d. per head of the population.

**VITAL STATISTICS.**—The number of deaths registered in the district was 49, but to these must be added five which took place in the Union House, six in the County Asylum, with five others "transferable." Nine which occurred in visitors are deducted. This gives a nett total of 56 (27 in males and 29 in females), equal to a general rate of 14.9 per 1,000, as compared with 15.4 in 1917, and a decennial average of 15.0. The deaths in the four quarters of the year numbered 19, 11, 12 and 14, giving rates per 1,000 of annum of 20.3, 11.7, 12.8 and 14.9 respectively. Thus the first quarter again showed the heaviest mortality.

The percentage of deaths under 1 years to the total was 3.6, and of those over 65, 55.4; the average age at death worked out at 62.2 years. The figures for the previous year were 5.6, 70.4 and 64.1 respectively.

**THE INFANTILE MORTALITY** or deaths under 1 year to 1,000 births was 42, as against 63 in 1917, and an average of 81 for the preceding decade. These two infant deaths were due to influenza and premature birth.

The births of 23 boys and 25 girls give an annual rate of 11.4 per 1,000—again the lowest recorded; this compares with 12.2 in the previous year, and a mean of 16.6 for the years 1908-1917. The births in the four quarters numbered 7, 10, 15 and 16, giving rates per 1,000 per annum of 6.7, 9.5, 14.3 and 15.2 respectively.

The deaths again outnumbered the births, and there is a natural decrease of 8, or slightly more than 2 per 1,000 of the population. With this exception the above figures are again very satisfactory, especially in the presence of an epidemic of influenza, which was in itself responsible for six fatalities (equal to a rate of 1.6 per 1,000). The absence of deaths from ordinary zymotic diseases (for the third year in succession), the lowness of the infantile mortality, and the high average age at death, are all noteworthy.

Turning to other chief causes of fatality, tubercular disease is represented by 3 deaths from phthisis, equal to a rate of .8 per 1,000; this is about the average figure. Cancer, with 1 death and a rate of .3, has further declined, and is well below the normal. Mortality from respiratory diseases (2) is small; while that from disorders of the circulation (12) is somewhat higher. There was only 1 death from violence.

**ZYMOTIC DISEASE.**—For the third year in succession, there were no deaths from any of the seven ordinary zymotic diseases, and the rate therefore is nil. The mean for the preceding ten years works out at .76 per 1,000.

Notifications of infectious disease were 37 in number. They included 1 scarlet fever, 5 diphtheria, 1 erysipelas, 7 tuberculosis, and 23 measles and German measles.

**MEASLES.**—Twelve cases were reported early in the year; four of these were in a private school, which was closed. Nearly all the others were either visitors, or attending private schools. Eight of these were under 15 years of age; one was over 45.

**GERMAN MEASLES** was responsible for eleven notifications spread over the months May—June. Three were in visitors, and all

but one were children under 7 years old.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—Five cases, which were confined to two families. The first two were reported early in July; the patients were both children—visitors, and the older (age 13) had the disease in the spring, went to an isolation hospital, and was discharged after one negative swab was obtained about two months previously. A little later a nasal discharge developed, and her younger sister now contracted infection; swabs from both were positive.

The second batch of three cases occurred later in the same month, but there was no interassociation. Here a mother and two children were attacked; the origin of disease was obscure. Of these, four were children under 16, and the other an adult over 50. The children were all treated at Exeter Sanatorium.

**SCARLET FEVER** was limited to one attack—in a child of 13; I could not discover any probable source of infection. This patient was well isolated at home.

**PHTHISIS** produced six notifications; two of these referred to visitors who have since left the district. Of the four residents, one was a young adult (20), and the others over 35 years of age. Two were gardeners, and one was invalided out of the army, while all were living in fair sanitary conditions and had separate bedrooms. Whooping cough and diarrhoea were said to be the starting point of disease in two instances.

One case of other tubercular disease was reported in a young child; the mesenteric glands were affected.

**DIARRHOEA** was again little in evidence, and no deaths were registered.

**INFLUENZA** was prevalent during the last two months in the year. Generally speaking the type of disease was perhaps not very severe. During the year there were six deaths from this cause (one was in April). Age and sex distribution were as follows: Under 1 year, 1 death (female); between 1 and 5 years, 1 (male); between 25 and 45 years, 1 (male); between 45 and 65 years, 1 (male); over the latter age, 2 (females).

The schools were closed for a month, and leaflets, with simple directions based on the Local Government Board circular, were sent to every house. The children were excluded from the Cinema Theatre by the proprietor. The disease attacked all classes of the population.

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**—Four patients (all diphtheria) were sent to the Exeter Sanatorium at Pinhoe during the year.

**SMALL POX ACCOMMODATION** remains in statu quo.

**MIDWIVES' ACT** is administered by the County Council: the part-time services of a Health Visitor (Miss Rogers at present) are available.

**SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS ACT** is in the hands of the police; no samples however were taken for analysis during the year.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The improvement in the service mentioned last year has been maintained, and reduction is now less often necessary.

**SEWERAGE SYSTEM** has been in good working order.

**SCAVENGING.**—House refuse is removed three times a week in the town, and once or twice on the outskirts (by the Council's employees). I have had no complaints as to this.

**SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.**—Four in the town and one just outside have been visited from time to time by Mr. Churchward and myself. One carcase of a bullock (tubercular) was condemned, besides various portions of frozen meat.

**DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS**—There are 13 milk-sellers, 8 of whom are cow-keepers: these are visited at least twice a year by the Surveyor and myself. Generally, they were found in good order.

**HOUSES OF THE WORKING CLASSES.**—A site on which it is proposed to build 50 new cottages, will (with the approval of the

Local Government Board) be acquired by the Council. It lies on the Exeter Road, at an elevation of 100 feet above sea level; the sub-soil is sandstone, and it is open to sun all day. Sewerage, water, gas and electric light are within easy reach, and in my opinion the position is an excellent one.

No new houses were built and none were condemned.

**SCHOOL SANITATION.**—No structural work has been carried out.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**—The following have been visited and found satisfactory—45 in all: Bakers, 7; Bootmaker, 1; Builders, 8; Dressmakers, 8; Gasworks, 1; Laundries, 11; Plumber, 1; Power Station, 1; Printers, 2; Smiths, 2; Tailors, 3.

**H. B. MAPLETON,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

### REPORT OF MR. S. F. C. CHURCHWARD.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

|                                       |     |     |     |     |      |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Dairies Inspected                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8    |
| Cowsheds Inspected                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8    |
| Milkshops Inspected                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6    |
| Bakehouses Inspected                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7    |
| Slaughterhouses                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6    |
| Laundries Inspected                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11   |
| Workshops Inspected                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31   |
| Intimation Notices served             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1    |
| Houses Disinfected                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25   |
| Houses Redrained                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2    |
| Total number of Water and Smoke Tests | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13   |
| Total number of Visits                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 166  |
| Number of loads scavange collected    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1801 |

The slaughter-houses, dairies, milkshops, cowsheds, bakehouses, laundries, workshops and conveniences at the Railway Station have been regularly inspected.

1,159lbs. of frozen meat has been condemned as unfit for food.

### METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS.

|           | Max. and Min. Mean Shade Temperatures. | Barometric Pressure. Mean of Month. | Rainfall at the Lawn. | Wet Days. | Hours of Sunshine. | Sunless Days. |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|
| January   | 43.0                                   | 29.32                               | 3.68                  | 14        | 77.90              | 10            |
| February  | 45.0                                   | 29.58                               | 1.28                  | 11        | 52.30              | 10            |
| March     | 43.0                                   | 29.34                               | 1.23                  | 17        | 124.85             | 4             |
| April     | 42.0                                   | 29.00                               | 1.44                  | 11        | 160.30             | 4             |
| May       | 53.0                                   | 30.43                               | 2.36                  | 4         | 258.54             | 2             |
| June      | 56.5                                   | 30.40                               | .73                   | 18        | 292.80             | —             |
| July      | 62.5                                   | 30.69                               | 1.42                  | 8         | 266.60             | 1             |
| August    | 61.0                                   | 29.80                               | 1.80                  | 24        | 213.90             | 2             |
| September | 53.5                                   | 29.19                               | 5.30                  | 23        | 141.00             | 5             |
| October   | 48.5                                   | 29.66                               | 1.89                  | 14        | 95.17              | 7             |
| November  | 47.0                                   | 29.07                               | 2.69                  | 26        | 72.90              | 10            |
| December  | 48.0                                   | 29.53                               | 3.30                  | 26        | 59.15              | 13            |

|                           |     |     |         |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Highest Shade Temperature | ... | ... | 102     |
| Lowest Shade Temperature  | ... | ... | 20      |
| Mean Maximum Temperature  | ... | ... | 57      |
| Mean Minimum Temperature  | ... | ... | 44      |
| Mean Range of Temperature | ... | ... | 13      |
| Mean Temperature          | ... | ... | 50      |
| Total Rainfall            | ... | ... | 27.12   |
| Wet Days                  | ... | ... | 196     |
| Total Hours of Sunshine   | ... | ... | 1815.41 |
| Sunless Days              | ... | ... | 68      |

Wind Directions: N., 14; N.E., 25; E., 30; S.E., 26; S.W., 91; W., 22; N.W., 74; S., 83.

S. F. C. CHURCHWARD.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

May 12th, 1918.

